35. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expasion of e-commerce through internet.

Bid for installation of telephones from MNCs and indigenous companies

2361. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) what are the telecom circles for which bids were received from the multinational and Indian companies jointly some times before 1995 for undertaking installation of telephones as per provisions in the telecom policy;

(b) if so, the details of such bids;

(c) whether such action was repeated by the DoT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) After announcement of National Telecom Policy in May, 1994, the notice for inviting bids from Indian registered companies was issued for the first time in January, 1995 only for grant of licence for provision of Basic Telephone Service in Telecom Circles of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Kamataka, Maharashtra including Mumbai & Goa, Tamil Nad.u including Chennai, Haryana, Kerala Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (West) including Uttranchal, Uttar Pradesh (East), West Bengal including Kolkata, Andaman & Nicobar, Assam, Bihar including Jharkhand, Himachal ^Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, North East and Orissa. 16 bidders submitted 81 bids for various telecom circles and no bid was received for Jammu & Kashmir Circle. It was followed by second and third rounds of financial bids in December, 1995 and March, 1996 respectively from among those bidders who had been technically and commercially declared eligible as a result of the said first round of the bidding process. Six licences were granted against the said tendering process in the Telecom Circles of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.